God is absent, when he is constantly sustained by his power and fed by his bounty. The believer in Christ connects his very temporal mercies with the work and sufferings of his Saviour. " Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, *even the God of our salvation.*"

Thirdly, there is provided a means of communication between the believer and the object of his affection. Granting that distance may tend to diminish the affection of friends, we find this influence lessened when they can correspond by letter, or have frequent opportunities of meeting. We are willing to acknowledge that the love of the believer would grow cold and languid were he shut out from all communication with his God. But, in gracious condescension, God engages to meet with those that love him—not, indeed, in bodily presence, but not on that account the less truly, effectually, and comfortably; and love him as they may, they are assured that he is loving them with a ten thousand-fold greater affection. It is one of the most beneficent of the effects of the gospel, that it provides for the renewal of ,that fellowship with God which man had lost, but after which he is still aspiring in his deeper moods of mind. In this communion, there are all the elements to be found in the fellowship of a man with his neighbour. In human fellowships there are four elements—we speak to our neighbour, and he hears us ; he speaks to us, and we hear him ; and thus there is a thorough interchange of thought and feeling. There are the same elements in our fellowship with God when by faith we rise to it; we pour out our hearts before him, and he listens to us; he condescends to instruct us, and we attend to the lessons which he is giving. With such means of communication available, the believer feels as if his Saviour were present with him alway ; and so far as he still feels that the communion is distant, so far as he still mourns an absent Lord, it

is to desire
more earnestly to reach that place where he shall enjoy a closer
and an unbroken communion.

Aided by such circumstances as these, it is possible to form a vivid and abiding conception of the character of the Being whom we are required to love. And that character has in itself every-thing that is grand and yet attractive. Just as there is a beauty of shape and colour that pleases the eye, and a sweetness of sound that delights the ear, so there is a moral loveliness which